

A SPECIMEN OF *HOPLOPSYLLUS ANOMALUS* (BAKER)
LACKING A PRONOTAL CTENIDIUM (SIPHONAPTERA)

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An anomalous male specimen of *Hoplopsyllus anomalus* (Baker, 1904) recently was observed while identifying fleas collected by plague survey units of the Western CDC Laboratory.

The pronotal ctenidium, normally present in this species, is entirely lacking and the pronotum is much reduced. The flea appears normal in every other respect and the forelegs appear to be functional. Therefore, it appears doubtful that this lack of a pronotal ctenidium resulted from a mechanical injury in larval life or during mounting. This leaves pathological or embryonic malformation as possible explanations. This anomaly in Siphonaptera is presented merely as a curiosity (Fig. 1).

This specimen of *H. anomalus* was collected 10 mi. E. of Beaver, 7,000 ft., Beaver Co., Utah, by H. C. Owen, May 6, 1949, host: *Citellus variegatus grammurus* (Say).

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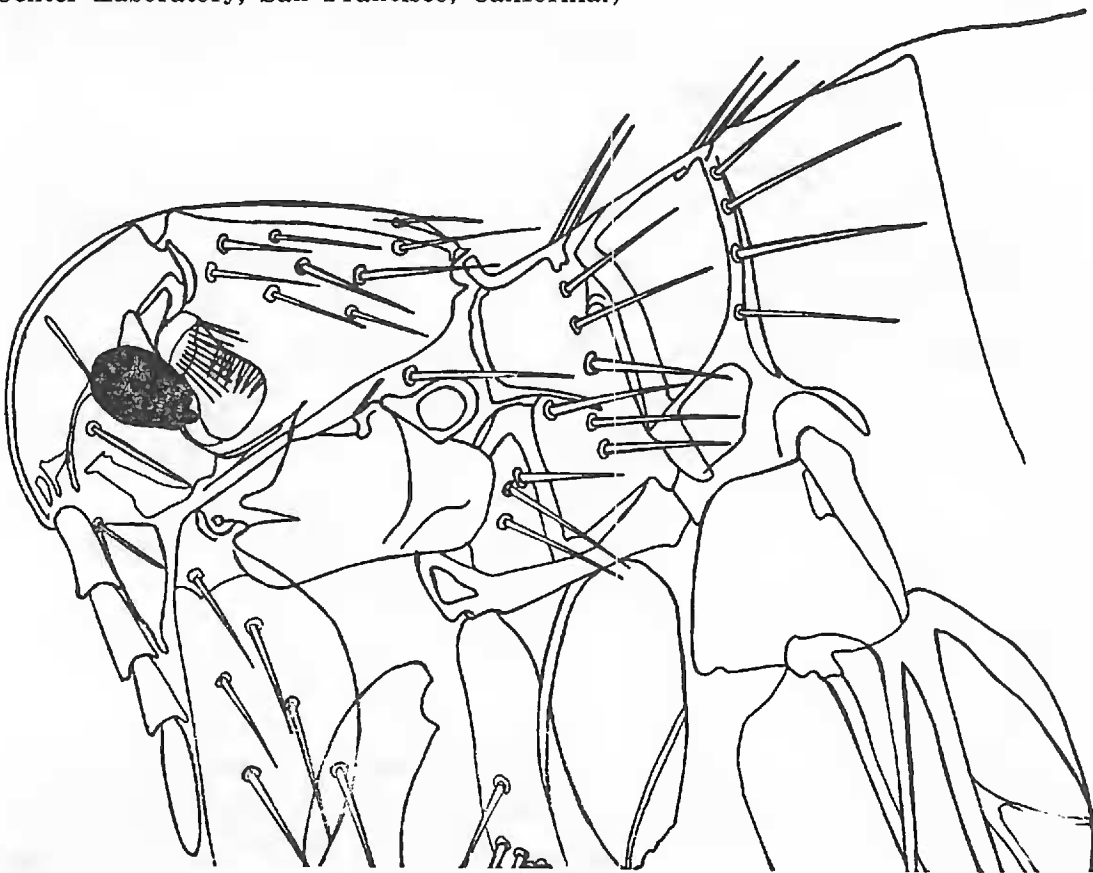


Fig. 1. *Hoplopsyllus anomalus* lacking ctenidial comb.